

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: 7:00 p.m.
Unlimited "One-minutes" Per Side	

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **H. Res. 531—Rule to provide for consideration of H.R. 2669-Education and Labor-College Cost Reduction Act of 2007 (Rep. Sutton—Rules):**

The structured rule provides for one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules, shall be considered as read. The rule makes in order only the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules if offered by Mr. McKeon of California or his designee. The amendment shall be considered as read and shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by a proponent and an opponent. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Sutton and consideration will proceed in the following order:

- One hour of debate on the rule.
- Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
- Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**

- **H.R. 2669-Education and Labor-College Cost Reduction Act of 2007(Rep. George Miller-Education and Labor):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Education and Labor Committee Chair Rep. George Miller, or his designee, and will proceed in the following order:

- One hour of debate on the bill.
- Debate and vote on the amendment in the nature of a substitute to the bill.
- Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.

- Vote on passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**
- **Suspension Bills:** Today, the House will consider several bills on the Suspension calendar. Bills considered on the Suspension calendar are debatable for 40 minutes; may not be amended; and require a two-thirds vote for passage. If a recorded vote is requested, it will be postponed.
 1. **H.R. 2608** - SSI Extension for Elderly and Disabled Refugees Act (*Rep. McDermott – Ways and Means*)
 2. **H.Res. 527** - Recognizing the month of November as “National Homeless Youth Awareness Month” (*Rep. McDermott – Ways and Means*)
 3. **H.R. 2900** - Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007 (*Rep. Dingell – Energy and Commerce*)
 4. **H.Res. 287** – To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the first use of the name "America", and for other purposes (*Rep. Hastings (FL) – Foreign Affairs*)
 5. **H.Res. 426** – Recognizing 2007 as the Year of the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons in Colombia, and offering support for efforts to ensure that the internally displaced people of Colombia receive the assistance and protection they need to rebuild their lives successfully (*Rep. McGovern – Foreign Affairs*)
 6. **H.Res. 467** – Condemning the decision by the University and College Union of the United Kingdom to support a boycott of Israeli academia (*Rep. Murphy (PA) – Foreign Affairs*)
 7. **H.Res. 482** – Expressing support for the new power-sharing government in Northern Ireland (*Rep. Gallegly – Foreign Affairs*)
 8. **H.Res. 500** - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in opposition to efforts by major natural gas exporting countries to establish a cartel or other mechanism to manipulate the supply of natural gas to the world market for the purpose of setting an arbitrary and non-market price or as an instrument of political pressure (*Rep. Ros-Lehtinen – Foreign Affairs*)
 9. **H.Res. 436** – Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the University of Central Arkansas (*Rep. Snyder – Education and Labor*)
 10. **H.Res. 210** - Commending the Appalachian State University football team for winning the 2006 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I-AA Football Championship (*Rep. Foxx – Education and Labor*)

- **Postponed Suspension Votes:** At some point today, the House will take roll call votes on the following suspension bills, which were debated on Tuesday:
 1. **H.R. 986** – Eightmile Wild and Scenic River Act (*Rep. Courtney – Natural Resources*)
 2. **H.R. 1337** – To provide for a feasibility study of alternatives to augment the water supplies of the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District and cities served by the District (*Rep. Cole – Natural Resources*)
 3. **H.Res. 526** – Supporting home ownership and responsible lending (*Rep. Cummings –Financial Services*)
 4. **H.R. 556** – Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007 (*Rep. Maloney – Financial Services*)
 5. **S. 1701** - A bill to provide for the extension of transitional medical assistance (TMA) and the abstinence education program through the end of fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes (*Sen. Baucus – Energy and Commerce / Ways and Means*)

Bill Summary and Key Issues

H.R. 2669-Education and Labor-College Cost Reduction Act of 2007

The College Cost Reduction Act of 2007 will provide the single largest investment in higher education since the GI bill. In addition, it will do so at no new cost to taxpayers, by cutting excess subsidies paid by the federal government to lenders in the student loan industry. The legislation will:

Strengthen the Middle Class by Making College More Affordable

- Cutting interest rates in half on subsidized student loans over the next five years.
- Making student loan payments more manageable for borrowers by guaranteeing that borrowers will not have to pay more than 15 percent of their discretionary income in loan repayments, and allowing borrowers in economic hardship to have their loans forgiven after 20 years.
- Increasing federal loan limits to provide borrowers with additional assistance in paying for college and to help them rely less on costlier private loans.
- Containing college costs.

Increase the Purchasing Power of the Pell Grant Scholarship

- Increasing the maximum Pell Grant scholarship by at least \$500 over the next five years, ultimately reaching a maximum scholarship of at least \$5,200.
- Expanding eligibility to include and serve more students with financial need.

Ensure a Highly Qualified Teacher in Every Classroom

- Providing upfront tuition assistance to qualified undergraduate students who commit to teaching in public schools in high-poverty communities or high-need subject areas.

Encourage and Reward Public Service

- Providing loan forgiveness for first responders, law enforcement officers, firefighters, nurses, public defenders, prosecutors, early childhood educators, librarians and others.
- Revising policies to allow public servants to have their loans forgiven after 10 years.

Encourage Philanthropic Participation in College Retention and Financing

- Establishing a partnership with federal, state and local government entities and philanthropic organizations through matching challenge grants aimed at increasing the number of first generation and low-income college students.

Make Landmark New Investments in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribally-Controlled Colleges and Universities, Alaska and Hawaiian Native Institutions, and Predominately Black Institutions

- Guaranteeing \$500 million over five years.

Anticipated Amendment to H.R. 2669

McKeon (CA) - Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute. The amendment reduces the amount of savings from subsidies in the loan programs and invests funds in the Pell Grant program. The amendment eliminates a key 'Six for '06' provision to cut interest rates on student loans in half, as well as other critical investments in higher education, including historic investments in the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions- **60 minutes**

"The first duty of society is to give each of its members the possibility of fulfilling his destiny. When it becomes incapable of performing this duty it must be transformed." -Alexis Carrel